

Reds Eager To Discredit U.S. Intelligence Agency

—BY MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON — Following the recent change in command, the Central Intelligence Agency got some bad news breaks. They have helped to power the propaganda machine of the Communist bloc, which in recent months has been directing an attack on an unprecedented scale in a dozen or more languages against the agency.

For the first time not only the CIA but the "intelligence community" has been branded as comprising an "invisible government" dominating American foreign policy. The line was laid down nearly a year ago in a broadcast by Moscow Radio in Russian and it has been reiterated incessantly with ever greater force. The broadcast referred to "nine other government organizations" making up the intelligence community.

"The invisible government includes many other organizations which from without appear to be integral parts of the government machinery," the broadcast said. "It even includes individuals who work for various firms and establishments, the Peace Corps and other organizations which the United States maintains abroad."

This last is a sore point with members of the Senate

Foreign Relations Committee who have insisted that they should share in the supervision of the CIA along with members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. They contend the agency influences foreign policy.

When he appeared before the Foreign Relations Committee to apologize for a letter he had sent to the St. Louis Globe - Democrat praising an editorial attacking Chairman J. William Fulbright, the new director, Richard Helms, volunteered the statement that the CIA had never in any way tried to use the Peace Corps as a cover.

The Moscow broadcast said that the White House not only bears responsibility for CIA operations but "it approves plans to overthrow governments or bribe the subjects of foreign states, even friendly states. In other words, the invisible government is directed by the visible government."

A recent Moscow broadcast in Indonesian to Indonesia charged that the CIA was directly involved in the "inciting of reactionary groups to murder patriots, carry out disruptive activities against democratic organizations and to burn their homes and property." Thus, in effect, the CIA was credited with the overthrow of the Indonesian Communist Party and the wholesale massacre that followed. While this was certainly not the intention, it makes the intelligence agency look 10 feet tall.

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Putting the blame — or the credit — for the fearful upheaval on a handful of CIA agents, the broadcast recalled a fiasco of some years ago in which American agents and American gold were involved

in an attempt to aid a military overthrow of the Sukarno government. Nothing could better illustrate the fact that the failures are well advertised. The ill-conceived and ill-advised venture ended in dismal humiliation.

A number of broadcasts have had CIA agents fomenting trouble between Iran and Iraq from headquarters in a border town called Sulaimaniyah. A broadcast from East Germany intimated that the proposed educational foundation, to use blocked Indian currency to further scientific and technical training in India, was a device for spreading CIA influence.

The broadcast cited a series of articles on the CIA which appeared in the New York Times. The proposed foundation has stirred India's sensitivity over the independence of her educational system.

The CIA engineered the murder of Fabricio Ojeda, leader of the Venezuelan guerrillas, according to a dispatch to Prensa Latina in Havana from Montevideo. A so-called clandestine radio, broadcasting in Turkish to Turkey, charged the CIA with providing funds for the Justice Party so that it could defeat the Democratic Party in recent elections. The big oil companies, according to the broadcast, "operate as partners of the Justice Party."

A report given wide currency by Communist senders had CIA agents planning to kidnap the 12 members of Cuba's women's volleyball team. The plot was foiled only by "the determined attitude of the girls who fought against the traitorous elements."

Why this rapidly stepped-up attack on the CIA and the intelligence community?

The answer can only be speculative. One reason for being advanced is that this

may be the response to the disclosure of Soviet espionage techniques in the case of Stig Wennerstrom, the Swedish military attache in Washington and Moscow who passed on masses of classified information. What has already come out of Wennerstrom's secret trial in Stockholm gives a broader picture of the worldwide operation of the Soviet's KGB and GRU than anything yet made public. The evidence is put together in "An Agent in Place," by Thomas Whiteside, just published.

There is another reason with heavily ironic overtones. If even one-tenth of what these broadcasts allege about the CIA is true, then it far exceeds in scope what its severest critics here at home say about it. A newcomer in the spy business, it may have begun to daunt the Soviets, who rate themselves tops in the field.

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